



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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The U. S. Department of Transportation today announced 18 new grants totaling \$9.5 million for the nationwide improvement of urban mass transportation.

The grants, which totaled \$9,537,901, were made to city, regional and transportation agencies in 14 States and Puerto Rico during the past 10 days. The grants were made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe said the grants were "part of President Richard Nixon's \$3.1 billion, five-year program to upgrade, improve and develop new bus, rapid transit and commuter rail systems across the Nation."

The 18 new grantees are located in Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Ana, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Bloomington, Illinois; Wichita, Kansas; Alexandria, Louisiana; South Portland, Maine; Gaithersburg, Maryland; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Albany, New York; Norwood, Ohio; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; San Antonio, Texas; Spokane, Washington; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; and Hato Rey, Puerto Rico.

Today's 18 new grants include 10 totaling \$8,709,771 for capital improvements, such as new buses and related transit equipment, according to UMTA Administrator Carlos C. Villarreal.

Seven other grants totaling \$699,630 were for technical studies which lead to capital grants, Administrator Villarreal said. One other grant for \$128,500 went toward a research and demonstration project which is expected to bring about new and better methods of providing urban transportation.

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The 10 capital grants went to the:

* Capital District Transportation Authority, Albany, New York--\$3,617,333--to purchase the assets of the former United Traction Company, which is now owned by Albany County. When United Traction went out of business last year, Albany County purchased the privately-owned company to keep public transit operating with the understanding that the newly-formed regional Authority would eventually take over the bus system. In addition to providing system acquisition funds, today's grant will allow the Authority to buy 200 new fare boxes, new supervisory and service vehicles and to make improvements to its bus garage. This UMTA grant will pay for two-thirds of the \$5,426,000 project, while local one-third funds from the Authority and the State of New York will cover the remaining \$1.8 million (UMTA Project No. NY-UTG-42).

* City of Spokane, Washington--\$2,609,400--to help finance the first three years of the city's \$4 million, five-year capital improvement and modernization program, which will include buying up the assets of Spokane City Lines and purchasing 49 new buses. Included in today's Federal grant are funds for the city to construct park-and-ride parking lots, build bus passenger waiting stations and modernize administrative and garage facilities (WASH-UTG-8).

* Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), Oakland, California--\$1 million to construct a 1,000-foot concrete aerial walkway between the new BART Coliseum Station and the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum complex. The walkway will provide safe and quick access for BART passengers when the system opens later this year (CAL-UTG-47).

* City of Alexandria, Louisiana--\$482,420, of which \$361,815 is immediately available for the city to build a new bus maintenance facility, buy 15 new air-conditioned buses with electric fare boxes, purchase 100 bus stop signs, 20 covered bus shelters and 20 two-way radio units (LA-UTG-8).

* Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD), Los Angeles--\$336,424 to reimburse SCRTD for its recent acquisition of the Eastern Cities Transit bus company, which included six buses, property and other transit facilities, and to buy seven new air-conditioned buses, miscellaneous bus parts and 13 two-way radios (CAL-UTG-46).

* City of San Diego, California--\$319,032 to complete all remaining phases of the city's transit improvement program, including construction of a combination administration--maintenance building and the purchase of 210 two-way bus radios (CAL-UTG-25).

* City of Santa Ana, California--\$245,070 to buy nine new air-conditioned buses, five of them replacements for vehicles averaging 20 years old (CAL-UTG-48).

* City of Norwood, Ohio--\$54,666, of which \$41,000 is immediately available for the Cincinnati suburb to buy two new buses and construct a garage facility (OHIO-UTG-16).

* San Antonio (Texas) Transit System--\$36,729 to buy and install LSN anti-pollution injectors in all 135 of the city's diesel buses (TEX-UTG-5).

* Wichita (Kansas) Metropolitan Transit Authority--\$8,697 to help the Authority buy 14 new locked bus fare boxes (KANS-UTG-3).

The seven technical study projects funded by UMTA last week include grants to the:

* Metropolitan Bus Authority, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico--\$464,000 to assist the island community in designing a new bus maintenance and terminal facility, develop improved maintenance policies and procedures and to improve transit scheduling in the San Juan area. Today's grant will enable the Metropolitan Bus Authority (MBA) to adequately provide for 150 new buses which the Commonwealth recently purchased with the assistance of a \$3.5 million UMTA capital grant (PR-T9-3).

* Grand Rapids (Michigan) Transit Authority--\$98,228 to provide area transit planners with information necessary to make decisions on short and long-range capital improvements for an area-wide transit system (MICH-T9-10).

* Atlanta (Georgia) Regional Commission--\$62,288 to provide two-thirds funding for continued transportation planning in the Atlanta area (GA-T9-8).

* McLean County Regional Planning Commission, Bloomington, Illinois--\$20,386 to help the Bloomington-Normal area carry out a short-range transit development program to prepare for eventual public ownership of the city's transit buses (ILL-T9-13).

* Greater Portland (Maine) Council of Governments--\$20,000 to supplement a previous UMTA grant of \$31,333 by broadening its scope to include finding alternatives, both management and financial, for solving the area's transit problems (MAINE-T9-1).

* City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin--\$19,933 to help the city conduct a technical study for the purpose of maintaining and improving public transit service in the Sheboygan area (WISC-T9-7).

* Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania--\$14,795 to develop a short-range, five-year transit development program for the Williamsport area to ensure the improvement of transit service and maintenance (PA-T9-15).

The research, development and demonstration grant went to the:

* Technical Analysis Division of the National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Maryland--\$128,500 to perform technical support to UMTA, including assistance in evaluating public response to bus and rail vehicle mock-ups, which will be displayed by UMTA at Dulles International Airport during TRANSPO 72, May 27 through June 4 (MD-RDG-3).

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For further information, contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043, or the individual grantee. When calling or writing for information, please refer to the project number and to this press release number.

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